

Appl. No. 10/765,707
Amdt. dated October 23, 2005
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (original) A slip collar comprising:

- (a) a tubular outer wall portion;
- (b) a tubular inner wall portion;
- (c) an intermediate portion disposed between the tubular outer wall portion

and the tubular inner wall portion;

- (d) a slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion,

wherein at least one of the tubular outer wall portion, the tubular wall inner portion, and the intermediate portion comprises a fiber reinforced plastic material.

Claim 2. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion are each generally cylindrically shaped.

Claim 3. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

Claim 4. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the slip collar has only one slot region.

Claim 5. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular inner wall portion is shorter than the tubular outer wall portion.

Claim 6. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a fluoropolymer material.

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Claim 7. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 wherein the inner wall portion comprises a cured vinyl ester resin and the outer wall portion comprises a cured phenolic resin.

Claim 8. (original) The slip collar of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive composition in the slot region.

Claim 9. (original) The slip collar of claim 8 wherein the adhesive composition comprises a novalac or an epoxy resin.

Claim 10. (original) A slip collar comprising:

- (a) a tubular outer wall portion;
- (b) a tubular inner wall portion;
- (c) an intermediate portion disposed between the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion,
- (d) a first slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion; and
- (e) a second slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion,

wherein at least one of the tubular outer wall portion, the tubular wall inner portion, and the intermediate portion comprises a fiber reinforced plastic material, and wherein the first and second slot regions face away from each other.

Claim 11. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion are each generally cylindrically shaped.

Claim 12. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

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Claim 13. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the slip collar is adapted to join two duct sections.

Claim 14. (original) The slip collar of claim 10 wherein the tubular inner wall portion is shorter than the tubular outer wall portion.

Claim 15. (original) A duct assembly comprising:

- (a) the slip collar of claim 10;
- (b) a first duct including a first end inserted into the first slot region; and
- (c) a second duct including a second end inserted into the second slot region.

Claim 16. (original) A method for joining ducts comprising:

- (a) providing the slip collar of claim 10;
- (b) depositing a first adhesive composition in the first slot region;
- (c) depositing a second adhesive composition in the second slot region;
- (d) inserting a first end of a first duct in the first slot region; and
- (e) inserting a second end of a second duct in the second slot region.

Claim 17. (original) A method for making a slip collar, the method comprising:

- (a) forming a tubular inner wall portion;
- (b) forming an intermediate portion;
- (c) forming a tubular outer wall portion, and
- (d) forming a slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion,

wherein at least one of the tubular outer wall portion, the tubular inner wall portion, and the intermediate portion comprises a fiber reinforced plastic material.

Claim 18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the slot region is a first slot region and wherein the method further comprises:

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(e) forming a second slot region that is defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion, wherein the second slot region opposes the first slot region.

Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising, before (b):
placing a first spacer element on the formed tubular inner wall portion and placing a second spacer element on the formed tubular inner wall portion, wherein the first spacer element and the second spacer element are spaced from each other, and wherein in (b), the intermediate portion is formed between the first spacer element and the second spacer element.

Claim 20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the inner wall portion is formed using a vinyl ester resin and the outer wall portion is formed using a phenolic resin.

Claim 21. (original) The method of claim 19 further comprising, before (b):
placing a first spacer element on the formed tubular inner wall portion and placing a second spacer element on the formed tubular inner wall portion, wherein the first spacer element and the second spacer element are spaced from each other, and wherein in (b), the intermediate portion is formed between the first spacer element and the second spacer element, and

wherein forming the tubular outer wall portion comprises depositing a fiber reinforced resin composition on the first spacer element, the second spacer element, and the intermediate portion.

Claim 22. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein forming the tubular outer wall portion further comprises using a filament winding process.

Claim 23. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein forming the first slot region comprises removing the first spacer element and forming the second slot region comprises removing the second spacer element.

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Claim 24. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the tubular inner wall portion, the intermediate portion, and the tubular outer wall portion are formed on a mandrel.

Claim 25. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the slot region is formed using a milling process ~~further comprising placing a release film on a mandrel prior to~~ (a).

Claim 26. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ slip collar of claim 1 ~~17~~ wherein the slot region is formed using a milling process ~~slip collar is for joining a pair of air ducts together.~~